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DE RUEHWN #0746 1231851
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P 031851Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2388
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2487
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J5 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEHCV/USDAO CARACAS VE PRIORITY
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0049

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 000746

SIPDIS

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OTTAWA FOR ECON SECTION
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2016
TAGS: ETRD ETTC PREL CU BB XL
SUBJECT: BARBADOS AND CUBA - LIBERTAD ACT REVIEW

REF: A. SECSTATE 57782
 B. BRIDGETOWN 637
 C. 05 BRIDGETOWN 2446
 D. 05 BRIDGETOWN 1954
 E. 04 BRIDGETOWN 2747

Classified By: DCM Mary Ellen T. Gilroy for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) The five questions in Ref A are answered below, in a Q
and A format.

Investments

Q1 - What is the nature of investments (and names, if known)
that host country businesses have in Cuba?

A1 - The Canadian energy company Sherritt (www.sherritt.com)
has set up two offshore companies in Barbados that it likely
uses as a platform for investments in Cuba (Ref E). The
significant tax savings Canadian companies enjoy in Barbados,
coupled with Barbados' tax and investment treaties with Cuba,
mean there may be other Canadian companies using offshore
subsidiaries in Barbados to enter the Cuban market.

Trade Agreements

Q2 - Are there any bilateral trade agreements between host
country and Cuba?

A2 - Yes. Barbados has active bilateral tax and investment
treaties with Cuba. In addition, CARICOM has a trade
agreement with Cuba that Barbados recently ratified in
parliament (Ref B, para. 13).

Exchange Programs

Q3 - Are there any exchange programs between host country and
Cuba, including but not limited to: scholarships for host
country nationals to study in Cuba; Cuban-paid medical travel
for host country nationals; and Cuban doctors working in host
country?

A3 - Yes. Barbados is the recipient of Cuban scholarships
and Cuban-paid medical travel for Barbadians in need of eye

surgery (Ref D). There is no wide-scale program to utilize Cuban doctors in the local health care system. In addition to official exchange programs, there are exchanges at the NGO level. For example, on April 11 a Barbados labor union hosted a dozen Cubans visiting Barbados from two Cuban organizations, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People and the Caribbean Association of Cuba.

Democracy and Human Rights

Q4 - Has the host country, in Post's opinion, worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba?

Q4 - No. Barbados has done nothing to advance democracy and human rights in Cuba.

High-Level Visits

Q5 - Have there been any high-level diplomatic visits between Cuba and host country in the past six months?

A5 - Yes. Fidel Castro visited Barbados December 7-9, 2005, for the triennial CARICOM/Cuba Summit (Ref C).

GILROY